

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 6:00 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members John Warshow, Chris Martin, and Andy Perchlik; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe;

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Andrew Perchlik

Agenda: The Board and Bobbi discussed the standard Selectboard agenda and the way that it is presented. Some of the items under old business are just there as reminders. Bobbi will send a draft of the agenda to the Board on Wednesday, and post the final agenda on Friday. Changes to this meeting's agenda: John Cookson asked to be removed from the agenda, as did Susan Green. The Board added an item about the Old Schoolhouse Common, and contracts for the cemetery, OSC, and covered bridge mowing (these were approved at the last meeting but need to be signed today).

Stranahan Town Forest: Dan Fowler addressed the Selectboard. He has spoken with the County Forester, Dan Singleton. The County Forester would be willing to manage the forestry aspect of the Stranahan Town Forest if the Selectboard asked. Mr. Fowler is dismayed that the plan that was done by the County Forester 5 years ago is not being followed. He feels that this is not good stewardship. He has spoken with the former County Forester, Russ Barrett, who worked on the original plan. That plan was very conservative, because Russ was sensitive to the fact that it is a town forest. Mr. Fowler feels that management of the forestry aspects should be in the hands of professionals. The County Forester's office is staffed by professionals who are trained in forest management. They are schooled to recognize and work safely around wetlands. He pointed out that it is acceptable management practice to harvest timber around wetlands during times of the year when the ground is frozen. He noted that the land could be managed not just for timber harvesting but also wildlife management for both game and non-game species, and the new County Forester would like to do workshops at the forest. Mr. Fowler feels that there is at least \$250,000 in timber inventory that could be harvested over the next 15 years. He noted that he is not interested in logging himself but he feels that the County Forester should be handling the forestry aspects, the way it is done in most other towns. Chris will call the County Forester and invite him to come to a meeting.

Bobbi stated that she is dismayed that when ecologists have concerns about logging, their opinions are valued, but when the same ecologists suggested that more trails would be detrimental to the forest, their opinions are not heeded. It was stated at the Stranahan meeting last night that walkers would not be willing to share the trails. Bobbi feels that some walkers would not mind sharing the trails if it is what the ecologists feel would be better for the forest, as suggested by Bob Popp and Brett Engstrom. She questioned why walkers are given priority over others who wish to use the forest, without considering all options.

Andy suggested that we hold a discussion at another meeting regarding the town forest. The Board asked Bobbi to warn the next Stranahan Stewardship Committee meeting as a joint meeting of the

Committee, the Selectboard, and the Conservation Commission, to be a walk-through of the proposed new bike trail. The meeting will be at 6:00 on May 18th.

Recycling: The Board discussed whether or not there is a location in Marshfield that could be used for a recycling drop off location. There are no plans for a recycling center at the moment; residents can still bring their recycling to Cabot.

Old Schoolhouse Common: More water has leaked in the gym. The Board discussed options to figure out where the water is coming from and what to do about it. The board discussed having Building Superintendent Ernie Penley remove the wall covering to see where the water is coming in.

Regarding covers for the lights in the gym, Andrew will call Jacob Gouge to find out what supplier he used when he replaced the lights.

Dennis Florio notified the Board that there is a littering problem on the nature trail. The Board did not feel that additional signs would make a difference.

Appointments: The Selectboard appointed Taber Allison to the Conservation Commission, to fill the vacancy created by Mike Zahner's resignation

Cemeteries: Sexton Joe Mangan has inquired about what work will be done in the cemeteries this year; he noted the drainage in Eaton Cemetery and the wall at Dwinell Cemetery. The Board decided to look at the projects during their annual road tour.

Road Tour: The Selectboard will meet and tour the roads on Saturday, May 2nd at 7:00 a.m.

Sugaring on Depot Hill: The Board received an application for an overweight permit from Green Mountain Mapleworks. The Board granted the permit only through the end of May; the Board is hoping that the sugarmaker will have a smaller truck next year.

Roads: The Board asked Bobbi to send a letter to Barry Kopecky to let him know how much it cost when a town truck had to be called in on a Sunday because a delivery truck was not prepared for a load and got stuck on the town road.

SASS Ave: John updated the Board on the case.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They signed an alarm contract with Mountain View Security Systems for the Fire Station.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the April 21, 2015 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
